

**Title:** Health Worker Vaccinations

**Purpose**

All local WIC program staff are encouraged to have current immunizations, particularly for Rubella and measles.

In the majority of daily WIC activities, conscientious adherence to the universal precautions for handling blood and body fluids will be adequate protection against contracting disease. However, the incidence of disease appears to be on the rise and in some cases vaccinations are appropriate.

**Authority**

7 CFR 246.7 and State Policy

**Policy**

Local WIC program employees are considered health workers and immunizations needed to maintain worker health are allowable WIC expenses (see guidelines).

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**I. Hepatitis B**

- A. The cost of Hepatitis B vaccine remains high. In order to make the best use of available dollars, we will judge each case individually and on its own merits.
  - 1. Local WIC program expenditures for Hepatitis B vaccination(s) for local program personnel is allowable only under these circumstances:
    - a. If the WIC employee routinely draws blood samples for hematological testing regardless of his/her WIC job; and/or
    - b. If a WIC participant being served by the local WIC program is positively identified by laboratory test as being infectious with Hepatitis B.

**II. Written Request Required**

- A. A written request for Hepatitis B vaccination(s) must be made, including appropriate documentation, to the State WIC Office and approval in writing received before vaccine is purchased. If an agency has an exposure control plan that has been approved by Montana WIC, individual approval as positions are filled, is not necessary.